



UCF Football Postgame Quotes - Nov. 29, 2024

Utah 28, UCF 14

UCF Head Coach Gus Malzahn

Head Coach Gus Malzahn's opening statement:

Okay, we're obviously disappointed with the loss and disappointed for our seniors. We really wanted to get those guys out on a positive note. Bottom line is we didn't play good enough to win. I mean our defense, I really thought they played really well. We got the two pick sixes, that was really the difference in the game, and they got the momentum in the late second half and it was tough for us to catch back up. And the pass off to RJ Harvey, I'm real happy he got the two touchdowns and set the record. He's been such a great player for us, and one of the better players to ever come through here, but we are disappointed overall with the loss. And really disappointed for our seniors.

Malzahn on the frustrating results after high hopes heading into the season:

Yeah, it's very disappointing. You know we had some close losses that were tough. I mean, we played musical quarterbacks throughout the year, that never helps. We had some injuries. But bottom line is, we didn't get it done. We had some opportunities to win some games, and it was uphill. I think they're a really, really good defense. Our defense played really well. I'm just disappointed that on offense we threw 2 pick sixes.

Malzahn on what's next:

Well, we will evaluate everything. We'll rebound, it feels bad right now and it's a culmination of a not very good season. I think everybody knows that. We'll meet guys coming back, and we'll recruit and hit the pool and be ready for the rest.

Malzahn on turning the page to signing day:

Well, that's what you do. You have to flip the switch. Now that the season is over it's all about the next year. It's all about getting everything prepared for that recruiting and the portal and everything that goes with it.

Malzahn on EJ Colson entering the game:

Yeah, I just felt like we needed a spark. EJ went in there. He did some good things. I mean, obviously he's a talented young man. That last drive was really good. He hadn't played much, but I just felt like we needed a spark at that point.

Malzahn on the fans being disappointed:

They should be disappointed there's no doubt about that. They should be disappointed that we didn't win tonight and send out our seniors. We got to do better, and I'm the first to know that.

Malzahn on looking back on the season:

Well, like I said, I think when you take it season by season, last year was a different season than this year, and we just didn't get it done. We didn't get it done this year. We won four games. And that's unacceptable.

Malzahn on if he has a starting quarterback on the roster:

I think we got guys that are talented and going to be really good quarterbacks. That's the best I can say right now.

Malzahn on the defense's performance tonight:

The defense played good enough to win. They did a really good job. I think they had one drive, and I think one of the drives was extended by a penalty, I think we roughed the quarterback. Our defense played very good. I think Coach Addison Williams, since he took over, gave our defense some life. I think they were 3 and 13 on third down. We really stressed that, and they played really hard for it.

Malzahn on Utah's blitzing schemes:

Yeah, they got after us. There's no doubt about that. They played man, they manned up, and we had a couple opportunities down the field, and we weren't able to convert. They were daring us to throw the ball and we couldn't convert. We were hoping we'd get one or two of those 50-50 balls, and we really didn't. And then, of course, then they'd get into bear and they'd blitz and bring some extra guys, and then were down fourth and seven plus. I mean, they went zero a lot. You know, you just got to figure out a way to get that done.

Malzahn on what it meant to see RJ Harvey get the team touchdown record:

Yeah, that was one of our goals, too. So we're happy for him that he was able to. We were really hoping we could have a smile in the locker room sending him out the right way. RJ, he's a great player. He's got a great future and he's a great representative for our university, our football team. Great player, great person.

Malzahn on Dylan Rizk's performance:

You know, Dylan, we got to be fair to him. He's still learning. You know, he had a tough night, no doubt about it. But he's a guy that has a bright future, I think. There will be better days for him.

Malzahn on what he needs to evaluate:

I think right now, now that the season is over, that's when you just kind of take some time to evaluate everything overall and how we can correct everything.



**Malzahn on if he's concerned about his job security:**

I am concerned about how to make this team better.

UCF Defensive Back Quadric Bullard**Bullard on how he hopes to be remembered at UCF:**

I hope to be remembered, as an inspirational piece for the younger guys, because I know going into college, a lot of young players, they see other freshmen at other schools getting tons of playing time and things like that. I don't want them to get discouraged, because my freshman year, I didn't get a lot of playing time, but I played special teams. You have to find your way to get onto the field, no matter how small it is, so special teams is a great way for the younger guys to fill in those roles, and travel and still learn while actually being on the sideline. Don't give up, be persistent and consistent in what you do, because when your number is called, that means the coaches trust you to a certain extent. They're putting you out there on the big stage. So when your number gets called, know what to do.

Bullard on what it was like working with Addison Williams:

I would say it's a blessing. There's not many coaches that you see that are living proof when your name is called, step up to the plate. Because Addi, he was the defensive coordinator last year, and things didn't work out too well and he stepped back from the defensive position and they brought in a new coach, but he didn't complain. He didn't say, oh, they're trying me or this and that but he stepped back. He took on the role of being a DB coach, and he played his role. And then when things changed, and they needed him again, he stepped up to the plate. And I feel like the defense, outside of the losses, if you look at the stats, the defense played really well in the last couple games. And my hats off to Coach Addi, because he taught me when your numbers called, make a statement. I take that back to sophomore year, where I was at the bottom of the depth chart, and coach Addi just told me, keep going to practice, keep going day by day, it was him and Coach Gibbs and you know, that's why I am where I am now.

Bullard on what he thinks of the future of the UCF program:

UCF has a bright future. Don't let one season discourage you. Look at Colorado, they had a bad season last year, and look at them now, they're one of the top teams in the Big 12. It's all about, going about things year by year. You can't take this one year and be like, oh yeah, UCF is going to be bad for the rest of the time, that's not how things work. Teams change, people change and you can see that happening in other other facilities.

UCF Offensive Line Amari Kight**Kight on losing the final game of the season:**

You know, you never want to go out that way. But I am appreciative and thankful for the opportunity that I've had to have an impact on the younger guys, and hopefully they take that and do something with it next year.

Kight on the emotion of senior night:

For me it was really just trying to take it all in, you know, my last game, it's something you never really experienced until you're in it. So I was just trying to take it all in and enjoy the moment and just be around my brothers one more last time.

Kight on his UCF experience:

I wouldn't trade it for the world. Honestly, I've made a lot of friends, a lot of connections. And you know, the people here will be people that I remember for the rest of my life, so I wouldn't change it for anything.

Kight on leaving his legacy at UCF:

For me, I just hope that I made an impact, and you know that the program continues to trend upwards and just continues to succeed. I think having an impact on the young guys and just being someone that they can come to and just learn from. And I hope that that's something that they've appreciated.

Utah Head Coach Kyle Whittingham**Coach Whittingham's Opening Statement:**

That was good to send our seniors off in the last game with a win, just great effort on defense. That was the number one offense in the Big 12, statistically, coming in. Defensive guys did a great job, scored twice on defense and held them to way less than what they've been averaging, so I'm very pleased with that. Offense did just enough to win the game, and I don't believe we turned the ball over. That's a big positive, offensively, not turning the ball over. Didn't have real gaudy numbers on offense, to say the least, but didn't put the defense in any bad situations, so that was the formula. To play great defense and take care of the ball offensively, and that's what we did. Some real positives, Micah Bernard was over 1,000 yards with his production tonight. It was great to see Zacharyus Williams, a true freshman, do some really good things. I think he's going to be a really good player, caught a bunch of balls, five or six balls, leading receiver for us. He's a tough kid, got good size, good speed. Good to see the defense perform as a whole. Two pick-sixes in one game, that's three pick-sixes in the last three games. That's a plus for us. Field goal kickers did a nice job, we lost Cole Becker in the first half, he had an injury that prevented him from kicking the rest of the way, so our true freshman, Coleman, who has been kicking off most of the year, came in and seemed very comfortable kicking field goals and kicking the ball. Really good, positive way to end the season. We had a lot of adversity this year that we faced. These guys just kept hanging in there, the last two months. No drop off in their work ethic, no drop off in their focus, their concentration, how they approach their business. Pleasure to coach, even though we're far from where we wanted to be, and different season than what we had hoped for. Still, can't say how much I think of these seniors and this team as a whole. Very positive."

