

KNIGHTS™



FOOTBALL

UCF Football Postgame Quotes – Aug. 28, 2025

UCF 17, Jacksonville State 10

Head Coach Scott Frost Opening Statement

“I have two things to start off with. Number one, I have so much respect for Coach Kelly with his players and coaching staff. Those were tough, tough circumstances tonight. They did a great job. Played really well. They were coached really well. So hats off to them. And second, I can’t tell you how much I love coaching here. Even if the stands empty out after a thunderstorm, it’s just fun here. So I appreciate the people who stayed. The game didn’t quite look like I expected, but I was really happy with the fight and perseverance.

Head Coach Scott Frost on Jayden Williams’ game

“Jayden got the game ball. He’s one of what seems like 100 new guys around here, but he’s played a lot of football. He’s very savvy and when they handed it off, it looked like they put down to our line a little bit. I thought it was a first down, and I was getting ready to figure out where to use my timeouts, but he just shot in there and eyed it. It was probably the biggest part of the game.

Head Coach Scott Frost on Cam Fancher

“First Cam got a targeting — that was a big, big hit. It looked like it was gonna be a game-changing play from down. The guy got too high on the head. His head was fine, wasn’t a concussion or anything. He had kind of an issue with his back, and he got some shooting pain down his leg. He tried to keep it going through a long break, but didn’t feel like he could go. So I was moved to Plan B pretty quick.”

Head Coach Scott Frost on the fight through the game

“Fighting through adversity was one of the big questions about this team. We have a lot of other questions we still need to address — and probably still don’t have answers to — but I was really wondering how this team would respond when it got tough. The defense just kept fighting. We gave up one long touchdown drive, but otherwise, we came up with stops when we needed them. The offense kept plugging away, even though we were shooting ourselves in the foot. The offensive line played really well for us. We kept plugging and found a way to make a couple of big plays.”

Head Coach Scott Frost on Myles Montgomery

“Well, first of all, I love Myles. He’s the captain of this team. Unofficially, we had four captains tonight, but he’s a leader. You know you’ve got a good kid when I’m over there looking at my play sheet, frustrated, and he comes over to encourage me — that says a lot about him. Moving forward, we’ve got to rotate those guys more. Stacey Gage is a good player, J. Nixon’s a good player — he’s a big, physical back. This game was tight the whole time, and Myles was a warrior. He stayed in and handled the load. He really showed up.”

Head Coach Scott Frost on the defense

“Yeah, we’ve felt all along that the D-line is one of our strengths, and it looked like that tonight. It’s only game one, and we’ve got a lot of improvements to make, but there were certainly some bright spots — and the D-line was one of them. I thought they..





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... kept the pressure on all night and did a good job against the run for the most part. We got a lot of guys in and rotated through, and those guys had a really good night. But it wasn't just them — I thought the corners played really well, and the safeties too. It's going to get harder when we start playing Big 12 opponents, but we've got about a month before that."

Head Coach Scott Frost on attempting to burn timeouts

"I want to compliment them again — we couldn't really game plan much for them, so we had to be kind of vanilla. Not necessarily in terms of scheme, but just in terms of anticipating what they'd do. We just didn't have the film. And then within the game, they were coming from everywhere — different coverages, moving parts — it was hard to deal with. Even watching video, it's tough to say, "get in this formation and run this." They did a great job. That last drive, we hit a couple plays. Tay made a couple of huge ones, especially that third-down run. We rolled the dice on that call — it only works against a certain defense — and he happened to get it. He did a great job making the play with his legs. We called another one like that on third down, but they brought pressure and forced us to give it. We got a yard on second down, and then on fourth, we just kind of sat there and said, "Let's go." A lot of people might've expected us to kick the field goal, but we still had a few bullets in the chamber with those plays we'd saved."

Head Coach Scott Frost on using Dylan Wade

"That was really just a function of their defense. They were coming after us. When they keyed on the run, they were bringing safeties down, and when they saw pass, they were dropping really deep. Not until that last bit, when they tried to stuff the run, did we really get a chance. They were dropping so deep, taking away anything downfield and leaving us checkdowns. We've got to be more efficient with those — we missed a couple, stepped out of bounds on another. That was basically the look we got all game. But that didn't have anything to do with the quarterbacks — that was about their defense."

Head Coach Scott Frost on the difference between the first and second half

"We'll go faster when it counts and when it's appropriate. It'll be game to game. They're a team that uses tempo themselves, and our plan was to earn a couple first downs, then go fast. The first drive went well, but then we shot ourselves in the foot. On the second drive, we probably forced a throw that shouldn't have been made, and it hit the defender. Just a lot of little things. Offensively, you either need to create explosive plays or be very consistent. If you're going to go on 13-play drives, something's bound to happen unless you're executing at a really high level. So we need to improve at both: being explosive and being consistent. When we get really good at that, maybe we'll go faster."

Head Coach Scott Frost on the team's mood

"Yeah, the rain. We've got a really young team — and that's not an excuse — but I wanted us to play better offensively. It's hard to say that when the defense played the way they did. Offensively, we've got a lot of young, inexperienced guys, and I thought that showed up a bit tonight. It cost us some scoring chances — plays where we lined up wrong or did something slightly off. But it's just so fun being in this stadium. Even though the night didn't go exactly how I wanted, and the rain delay was weird, it was great. We spent...





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... a lot of time in the locker room together. We're going to keep getting better. I think we've got a young team with a real chance to improve. We might've taken a slight dip tonight, but we've got guys who are going to gain experience fast. It's just awesome."

Head Coach Scott Frost on the defense

"Yeah, the resiliency was great. The penalties were a problem. We didn't have a ton, but they came at the wrong times. You can't push someone after the play, you can't lose your head and get ejected, you can't hold on a touchdown. The targeting — I'm sure that wasn't intentional — but it just felt like every time something went well, something else slowed us down. Those things need to be cleaned up. Those are first-game mistakes, undisciplined mistakes — and in some cases, selfish ones. That will definitely be addressed."

Head Coach Scott Frost on getting better between week one and week two

"I think we can improve a lot — and we need to. Particularly on the perimeter. We got stuck running between the tackles because of some early mistakes on the outside. Credit to their defense — they stacked the box, and when that happens, the ball's got to go outside. We need to be more efficient there — whether it's blocking on the perimeter or running clean routes. We didn't do a good enough job with that tonight. We'll go back to work and get better."

Head Coach Scott Frost on the quarterback status

"Yeah, I don't want to comment too much on that right now. I love both those kids. Cam's a warrior. I really don't know his status yet. I was told he was out for the second half — I'm not sure which break it was after — maybe the first one. I'll talk to the trainer later tonight or in the morning."

Head Coach Scott Frost on offsides calls

"Yeah, you reminded me of more. I mean, offsides on first down and a false start on the one-yard line — that's tough. That one was interesting — not sure what was said to get our kid to jump, but we've got to be more disciplined. You go back and watch the tape, and we didn't capitalize on opportunities. We didn't make the plays when we needed to, and we made mistakes at critical times. I thought they did a great job staying in the game on the other side. We've got a lot to improve."

Head Coach Scott Frost on team happiness

"You know what the coolest moment was? I was sitting back in what they call my office here, and my son and daughter came in — that didn't happen last time I was here. So I'm just really grateful for the opportunity to do this, especially now that my kids are old enough to understand what's going on. When I wake up tomorrow and get to tell them I'm home — that's special."





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Head Coach Scott Frost on the rain delay

“We came in right away, and I told them I thought it was going to be longer than they were saying. So we had the players take their pads off and just hang out. We debated going back into our facility, but decided to stay here. Andrew Sands was smart enough to order us some sandwiches, so I think 15 of them ate. Not much else you can do — just try to stay ready and loose for when it’s time to go back out.”

UCF Wide Receiver DJ Black

DJ Black on getting wide open on that Touchdown Catch

“It was a great playcall by Coach Frost...The offensive line held up real well... Tayven just threw me a great ball and it landed right in the pocket.”

DJ Black on facing the adversity and getting past it

“That’s something that we go through in practice every day. We bounce back from it and make plays.”

DJ Black on Tayven Jackson stepping into the game and what he saw out of him

“He did a great job stepping in. He was very off on screen and he just did his thing by stepping up. Having him step up and make a bunch of plays is amazing.”

DJ Black on Scott Frost speaking on cleaning up mistakes from this game

“Yeah, we shot ourselves in the foot a lot of times. Got some things we need to clean up, penalties held us back a lot.”

DJ Black on staying focused through the weather

“Just staying locked in and doing your job.”

DJ Black on the quarterback change

“At the end of the day, you have to do your job. No matter who is in the game we need to go out and execute.”

DJ Black on the process of transferring to UCF

“Once I got to Orlando I knew this was home”

DJ Black on how they can improve from week one to two

“Small details and make sure that we have a good technique. Keep our poise.”





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Linebacker Keli Lawson

Keli Lawson's reflection on the game and the overall defensive effort

"That's really what I think makes this group of men special. The coaches have talked about speed and accuracy from day one and how our problems aren't going to solve themselves. It wasn't by any means what it needed to look like, that's on not only us, but that's credit to the guys that were going against us. We've just gotta get it down to the little details and from those details you can come back stronger."

Keli Lawson on the blocked field goal and if it was his first one

"Yes sir, yes sir. I'm not gonna lie, when they lined up I already knew it was coming out."

Keli Lawson on learning anything new about the defense

"I wouldn't say that we learned anything new but I will say that I solidified what I had already thought to be true, that we've got some real good fighters and some real good dogs in this squad."

Keli Lawson on the celebrations and emotions in the locker room

"I mean, winning college football games at this level is never easy, so we work hard, we play hard, and we celebrate hard."

Keli Lawson on the final defensive stop

"Well, that's just complimentary ball. I know the offense gained a lot of rest throughout that game and it was our time to pay them back. The only mindset was to just look out for your brothers."

Keli Lawson on Jayden Williams' play on the fourth and one

"That was probably my favorite play of the night. They tried to change the tempo, they caught us on our heels a little bit and you see the safety come down and fly right past you. I thought I was going to make the play, but to see that, that's real special on his part, his behalf. That's kudos to what I see day in and day out during practice."

Keli Lawson on the penalties from the defense tonight and where they are as a unit

"It just shows that we've got a lot of work to do, like I said, get up earlier. We've got a group of guys that are very strong; effort is the hallmark of our program. I'm glad we got to put that aspect of our game on display this week."

Keli Lawson on how the defense can limit self-inflicting penalties

"Yes, sir, I blame myself, being in the middle of the defense. I have that voice for just letting the boys know, reminding them what the scenario is and what the situation is because we've got trained hunters down there in the first four so if I can add that little extra help then it shows the difference it makes."





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Keli on the blocked field goal

“So they came out in a little gig formation, we already knew, kudos to Coach P for really having us prepared for that moment. We already knew that it was gonna come back, after the huddle, when they went to kick it, we had already scouted that the ball was low, and as soon as I put myself in the flat iron I knew we were gonna get it done.”

Keli Lawson on team chemistry and building it throughout the season

“I think we’re at a point where it’s good enough to win games but it’s not good enough to consistently get us through the season. God willing, through constant preparation and just being together constantly, it’s gonna grow throughout the season.”

Keli Lawson on being named team captain as a transfer

Yes sir, I don’t take any of that lightly, I don’t take it for granted and I said earlier this week that it was truly a blessing to come into this game with a chip on my shoulder and that I have my teammates’ best interests and I have their blessing.

Keli Lawson on the defense around him tonight

“I don’t want them to do anything more than they did! They did what they were supposed to do, those boys got at the ball, but that’s something I already knew, with a little bit of time it comes together.”

Keli Lawson on the rain delay and what the players did

“Really, it was just trying to find that right balance of staying locked in, because we were at the point where we knew that at any given moment we could come back on the field, but also not being too tense because we don’t want to be over here wasting our energy, wasting our focus on a situation with certain conditions we can’t control.”

Keli Lawson on his personal opportunity being at UCF

“Yes sir, I attribute that to nothing else but God, and the coaches too, it’s a blessing to say the least. It’s a new opportunity.”

UCF Quarterback Tayven Jackson

Tayven Jackson on being brought into the game after the weather delay and how he rose to the challenge

“Yeah, it was obviously it was a good situation. Cam did a good job, in the beginning of the game, but he got banged up, and it was always, you know, stay ready. Your opportunity will always come and you’re always was ready and went in there and played like how I play. My team did an amazing job, everyone did an amazing job. The line, the receivers, defense on stops, this team is gonna be great. We just got to clean up a little bit is all.”



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Tayven Jackson on the two touchdowns and his comfort as the game went on

“Yeah I feel like as a player, it’s the first game, you know? There’s going to be some plays that you want back and some mistakes but, you know, you just got to keep pushing, you get through them and then next week you just get better. You watch film, and you try to move on from there. But it felt good to get out there again and you know, get my feet wet and get comfortable. I felt like as the game progressed, I felt more comfortable.”

Tayven Jackson on how it felt to go into the game unexpectedly and perform well in the fourth quarter

“Yeah, I just felt like you know, I’ve done that in my whole career. I’ve lost three or four quarterback jobs my whole career. I just I always wait for my moment, and my moment comes, and then I seize it. I felt like I did a good job with that last year and doing the same thing this year.”

Tayven Jackson on his connection with the receivers and the final touchdown

“Yeah, the funny thing is, I think we were right down the same on the 30/40 in the spring game, and me and DJ connected on the same play and whatever you do in practice, it’s going to show up in the game.”

Tayven Jackson on what was going through his mind when he got the last opportunity after the defensive stop

“You know stay poised, stay calm, trust your training, and go out there and have fun. You know, it’s a moment you always want when you’re a little kid, so you know, don’t make it too big. Just go out there and trust the training and trust the guys around you, and go make it happen.”

Tayven Jackson on his discipline when finding out he wasn’t named the starter

“Oh, it was all right. It was just a coach’s decision. Cam played well, kudos to Cam. He played well when he was in the game today, unfortunately, he got hurt, and that’s just the name of football, name of the game.”

Tayven Jackson on the big play of the game at the end of the fourth quarter

“Oh, yeah, it was play action naked, and I rolled out and I saw him. I saw DJ. I always see him in practice scooting down and I’m like I’ll just throw it out there, he’ll get it. He got a lead on it a little bit because he’s a little fast, so just let him let him get the ball in and he made a great catch. Great play call, too.”

Tayven Jackson on running an uptempo offense and keeping the momentum going

“Yeah, I think we do a good job in practice, we do a tempo drill to start the practice and get the energy going and that translated to the field then.”

Tayven Jackson on when he found out he was going into the game and having to sit through the rain delay

“Oh, it was right after the rain delay. Oh, yeah, it was long. We were in the lock room and it was long, but it is what it is. It’s alright. I found out kind of when we were going out.”



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Tayven Jackson on how much better the offense can get as the season progresses

“Oh, this offense is gonna be very explosive. It’s gonna be a lot better. It’s just the first game. I’m gonna get the jitters out. I felt like we did a really good job of executing the plays. There’s some plays that we need to go back into the film room and work on. We just had penalties hurt us today. So that’s easy cleaning those things up.”

Tayven Jackson on the win helping him with his confidence at a new school

“I mean, a win is a win. I think any win is a confidence booster. You always try to stay close, that’s the name of football. Any given day, anybody can win a game. You’ve seen it everywhere around the country. So just coming out with a win, and knowing that we can get better, that’s the exciting thing. I know that we can do better on offense, defense, and special teams.”

Tayven Jackson on the team facing adversity and being able to overcome it at the end of the game

“Yeah, I feel like during the summer and during the spring and fall, as a team, adversity is going to hit. I feel like every player in college deals with some sort of adversity. And it’s just, it resembles our team. We’re really close, and I feel like nothing can shake us. Today, you know, obviously, it’s not the score that we wanted and the outcome in the beginning that we wanted, but, you know, it’s football that happens. Mistakes are going to happen. I feel like we did a great job as a team of you know, not quitting and just really encouraging each other.”

Tayven Jackson on if he thinks he did enough to be the starter next week

“That’s a decision for Coach Frost. I’m just gonna still play football.”

Tayven Jackson on the trust he has built with the coaching staff

“I’m just grateful that, you know, the coaches had trusted me enough to put that in my hands and you know this team has amazing players.”

Tayven Jackson on the game winning drive and an opening night win

“It’s amazing. Again, when you’re a kid, you always want those opportunities, you always find yourself doing that. I’m happy that we got out of it, and that we got out of it with a win. You know, that’s all that mattered is winning. So that’s really what was on my mind and what was on the team’s mind is just finishing plus one, you know. With all the mistakes that we made, a win is a win.”

