

KNIGHTS



FOOTBALL



UCF Football Postgame Quotes – Sept. 6, 2025



UCF 68, North Carolina A&T 7

Head Coach Scott Frost Opening Statement

“I thought it was a step in the right direction, my hats off to those guys on the other sideline. They fought hard, we got on them early with a specials teams play, which is good to see. Guess they had a couple quarterbacks get hurt, so we wish them the best. I have a lot of respect for them, and hope that doesn’t hold them back from having a good season. In general, it was a step in the right direction. We’re certainly nowhere near close to what we need to be and can be at, but there were a lot of good things tonight.”

Head Coach Scott Frost on Jaden Nixon

“I’m really happy for Jaden. In a game like that, you never know who’s going to get the big plays, and they fell on Jaden tonight. He did a really good job. One thing I wanted him to improve from last week, is he had a tough run last week where we gave him the ball and there was nothing there and there was a guy in the backfield. It should have been a two-yard loss and it turned into about an eight-yard loss. We’ve been talking to him, as fast as he is, he just needs to run through the smoke and make sure that he’s not always trying to stop and juke. He did a really good job with that tonight on offense and on special teams. I’m really excited for him to have the type of game he had tonight.”

Head Coach Scott Frost on Tayven Jackson and Frost’s in-game quarterback rotation

“I’m excited about Tayven. We missed on a couple of things that I think we would hit most of the time, but I thought he played well, had a really good week of preparation and I saw a lot of growth from him. Really excited about where Tayven is going, but I think you guys can see why we had a tough decision in camp. Cam started the thing out because of his consistency, and he was out because of injury today. Tayven obviously came in and played awesome last week and helped us pull one out. Did some good things tonight, and then you can see what Jacurri can do too. It’s good to have depth, and I’m excited to have those guys.”

Head Coach Scott Frost on any quarterback controversy that could be created moving forward

“I don’t know if it’s controversy, at least not in our house it isn’t. In our locker room and our building it isn’t, because those three kids are all class acts and they root for each other and have been pulling for each other even when they’ve been competing. You look around the country, and there’s teams without one quarterback, definitely a lot without two. I feel good about three guys, that’s a luxury for us. We’ll let them keep competing, but right now I’m really happy with the direction we’re going.”

Head Coach Scott Frost on a potential tough quarterback decision in the coming weeks

“No, I’m not going to create that. We have a bye week to think about it, see who’s healthy and who’s available. We’ll talk as a staff, but I don’t think it’s going to be tough.”

Head Coach Scott Frost on week-to-week defensive improvements

“In a game like this, you’re worried about coming out and playing at our level instead of our play not being as good because of an opponent that’s, again I have a ton of respect for them, they’re just down a couple of levels of football. We have more resources and





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had some more horses than they did. But you want to make sure the team is playing up to our standard and not matching the level of competition. I thought the defense did a great job with that in setting the tone early. Second straight week with us having a delay because of weather, and the guys handled that great. They came out of the gates firing, so that was good to see.”

Head Coach Scott Frost on player rotations and implications later in the season

“It can help, I’m excited about a lot of those young receivers, but all of our receivers are fairly inexperienced. It’s good to get Marcus Burke and DJ Black and Duane Thomas Jr. reps, it’s also good to get Chris Domercant reps, and I’m really excited about Waden Charles going forward, and Carl Jenkins Jr. and Bredell Richardson and Jordyn Bridgewater. There were a few plays tonight that we just missed, and a couple times it was just a throw being a little off, and other times if we ran the route a little better, those are the kind of details that we need to keep dialing in on, because that’s the difference in making the play work against a good team or not. I think there’s a learning curve for all of us on our team with the limited experience we have to try to fast-track that experience and growth.”

Head Coach Scott Frost on Jaden Nixon and kick returning

“Pete Alomar does a great job with special teams. He’s done a great job with special teams for a long time. It’s great to have room on our staff for a full-time special teams guy. I did that job in LA, I helped Chase do the job in LA, and it’s a full-time job just to do special teams if you want to do it right, so hats off to Pete. When that play hit, it looked eerily similar, I thought about it instantly when he kind of came up the hash and broke left. I think he ran about the same track as Mike did back in the day. It was a little bit of déjà vu for me, but it was a good way to start the game.”

Head Coach Scott Frost on penalties

“Yeah we have to clean it up. Kind of the same thing again, I thought we were better, discipline-wise tonight, but we’re not close to there yet. Guys kind of making their own decisions, just some mistakes. The one drive they had, we gave them 30 yards in penalties. I want our guys to go attack tackles, not catch them and slam guys down. That’s just something we have to learn, and we got another 15-yard penalty. Those kill you in tight games, and we had a few on offense like that too. Got another Miles touchdown called back, I didn’t see what happened on that one so I have to look at the tape. Discipline matters, and we talk about every decision on our team being based on what’s best for the team, not what’s best for me, and I think we still have a little bit of, ‘I know I’m supposed to do this on my assignment, but I’m going to go make this play instead of doing exactly what they have to.’ That’s something we’ll talk a lot about over the bye week.”

Head Coach Scott Frost on Jacurri Brown keeping the ball on the ground, and if it was by design

“Those games are tough, because we’re trying to be good sportsmen with the game in a situation like that, but we also have a lot of guys that went all the way through camp and just wanted to play football. A bunch of those plays with Jacurri running were plays where he had an option to give-keep, or maybe even throw an RPO. I actually thought the long touchdown he gave it, and I was watching Bridgewater run and all of a sudden Jacurri came shooting out, so he made the right read on that and they kind of over-





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played the fly sweep. He's an athlete and he's a weapon. Glad he's on our team."

Head Coach Scott Frost on quarterback depth

"Like I said before, we're in an era where you have to bid on players. Sometimes you get the right ones and sometimes you don't. I think our staff and recruiting department did a good job picking a lot of the right guys. We have to keep developing those guys and coming together as a team, but we have three quarterbacks that I feel really good about, and I've been on teams where you're struggling to find one or definitely two. When you have somebody get hurt like Cam did, it's good to have other guys."

Head Coach Scott Frost on turnovers forced by the defense

"Every game is different. The last game we had a really good amount of yards and didn't score many points, and then you look at tonight, and we have a bunch of points and not very many offensive yards because we scored on defense and special teams, but those are the biggest scorers in football as far as dictating the outcome of the game. When you score on either one of those, you have a really high percentage chance to win; if you do it twice, you don't lose very often. That was a product of the guys having the right mindset coming out and starting fast."

Head Coach Scott Frost on the stadium atmosphere

"Yeah they've really improved the gameday stuff, I didn't know all that was going to happen, I think Terry spent a lot of money on fireworks tonight. I'm a big fireworks fan, my brother's here tonight, he's in the back, the Jeopardy guy, and his birthday is on July 4th, so that's a big holiday for our family, so I've always had a soft spot in my heart for fireworks. That was cool. If we actually kick off a game at the right time, I hope the thing is jam-packed and rocking, but I really appreciate the fans who were there, and a lot of them stayed for the whole thing."

Head Coach Scott Frost on how results line up with expectations through two games

"In camp, I didn't know how the team would react when it was live bullets. I think we played better than we did last week, which is good to see. Now we've got two weeks to get ready for the next one. We really have to utilize these two weeks, it can't just be time off and get away from football. We're going to rest the guys and make sure they're right, but we need to come back and attack and take another step. The games are going to get tougher and the opponents are better."

Head Coach Scott Frost on if he likes the week three bye

"This is one of the odd years where you have two byes during the year. I think ours actually worked out really well. Three, bye week five, or something like that. Two, bye week five. So it gives us a couple of breaks during the season, but I can't control where those fall, and I think with our young team it gives us a little extra practice before the next one."





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Head Coach Scott Frost on what he learns about his team in a blowout win

“I was impressed with a couple of things. I was impressed with the way we came out, and we’ve talked about having a nameless, faceless opponent, and coaches talk about that a lot, but I want our kids to have blinders on and not worry about what’s happening around the country or anything else, and just be locked in and focused on the task in front of them. They did a good job with that tonight, and I was really excited by the play by some of the younger guys. Those guys are hungry to get a chance, and they got to play a lot of the second and third quarter. I’m anxious to watch the tape and see how they did.”

Head Coach Scott Frost on points of emphasis entering bye week

“Discipline and detail is probably what I’m going to hammer home to these guys. Like I said before, it’s got to be team-first all the time, be in the right spot with your eyes right, right alignment, fewer penalties, that’s all discipline. And then just the detail of some of the things we’re trying to run schematically in all three phases needs to continue to improve. If you’re intentional in practice, that’s when it gets better.”

Head Coach Scott Frost on Stacy Gage

“Yeah, Stacy wasn’t with us in the summer, and we got him back in the fall. He did a good job of being in shape and handling his business and coming back. He had a really good spring, had a really good fall camp. Feel good about our depth there too, it was really sad to see ‘Swint’ get hurt a little bit, and we’d have another one, but you see why I’m excited about our depth at that position with Miles and Stacy and obviously Jaden, and Agyeman Addae came in and did some good things there at the end too. It’s good to have depth in all spots.”

UCF Running Back Jaden Nixon

Jaden Nixon on his mindset and when he knew he was getting the kick return touchdown

“As soon as they said ‘kick return.’ Honestly, it was just something that we’ve been very proud about this weekend and really wanted to do some of last week, and so this week we just kick returned. I can’t take credit for all of that. I mean, as I’m returning, I’m watching guys just wash everybody over and just the middle opened up. I couldn’t get talking about the kicker. You know, it’s just a great feeling, and it’s a blessing. I remember TJ Bullard came over to me like, ‘We’re gonna go get one.’ I was like, ‘we sure are.’ Hey man, it happened, and especially to start the game like that, it’s amazing and it gives the team a win.”





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Jaden Nixon on if he's ever had a game like this in his career

"Oh, not exactly like this. I've only had one other kick return before. But I mean, just the kick return and then two big runs. I've had a couple of games where I had two big runs and then maybe a short run or something like that. But, I mean, I can't take credit all for myself. I mean, our offensive line did a great job opening up the holes, and Coach did a great job making calls. Like I said, on that kick return, everybody did a great job doing their job and that's something we took pride on this week. We really want to grow and expand what we can do. And we got it done.

Jaden Nixon on how he feels after his big plays

"I feel great right now. My Tylenol is kind of wearing off, so I wouldn't say I could go and do it again, but I'm feeling great. Not just watching me or going out there and doing what I know I can do, but watching my other teammates and the other guys get a chance to go play or have some success, that's what's really amazing and special for me. It's cool to have your own success, but I mean, guys getting in a game and making plays and everything like that – that's something that's exciting for me. I'm excited to see what else we do this year and what other guys can do as well."

Jaden Nixon on if he is surprised about the stat line

"I am. I really am. It's crazy, but it's a blessing. It shows the work that not only I put in this week, but the whole team put in this week as well."

Jaden Nixon on how his week one performance motivated him during this game

"Shoutout (equipment). I remember Brad came up to me, and he was like, 'Hey man, negative 10.' I was like, wow. That's something that I wasn't too proud of or prideful to be, especially the first game as a Knight. I remember you kept telling me that, and it was motivation from there, even after the game. I'm driving home like, 'Man, I have to wait another week to show what I can do.' But I just showed up on Monday, went to work; showed up Tuesday, went to work; the whole week, showed up, went to work. I can't even just take all the credit for myself. My teammates were pushing me all week, and even after the game, telling me that I'm good, 'You're going to be straight, and everything is going to work out. It's all going to work out. God has a plan for you.' So shoutout to my teammates, and to (equipment) for keeping me up."

UCF Quarterback Tayven Jackson

Tayven Jackson on preparation knowing he was starting and how early success on the field felt

"It's the same preparation as if you're the backup, you always stay ready. I approached it the same way as I did week one. I thought today's game, there was some good and there was some bad. We could be better at some things and, this team, we talk about how we want to be great, so we're going to go in the film room and fix what we did wrong, and also enjoy the win, because it's hard to win football games."





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Tayven Jackson on the game-opening kickoff touchdown return

“It’s a momentum-changer. Starting in the game with the ball first, it’s nerve wracking, you know what I’m saying? Like you don’t know what they’re going to come out and run on defense. When you got that, you can take a deep breath and relax a little bit. It was a great run by Jaden Nixon.”

Tayven Jackson on what was working on attempted deep passes

“I call them sliders. DJ Black, Marcus Burke, and all of our receivers, they’re sliders. The defense that they presented us on film and out there today, we could take deep shots today. We did, and we connected on some, and we didn’t (on others). The ones that we didn’t connect on, I’m not too worried about that because we’re going to connect on those.”

Tayven Jackson on how his fellow quarterbacks supported him leading up to the game

“Our friendship doesn’t change no matter who the quarterback is. We support each other, whoever is going out there and that’s just the type of quarterback room we have, and kudos to Coach Milton, he keeps it real in there and we love each other.”

Tayven Jackson on his running backs and what it does for him

“It makes the game easy when you got guys that you can hand the ball off to and they can break one for 80 (yards) and spin move off of three guys and score. It makes the game easier. As a quarterback, you have confidence, I have confidence in every player on the field, but when you have running backs that can do the things our running backs can, it’s awesome, it’s amazing.”

Tayven Jackson on the lift of connecting on deep passes

“We have playmakers. When we miss shots, we move on to the next play, and we do a great job of that, the receivers do a great job of that. Our offense does a great job, if we have a negative play, you know, forget about it, wipe it, flush it, because the next play is the only thing that matters. I think we did an amazing job today as an offensive group just thinking about the next play. Kudos to the receivers, the offense by just going out there and going next play mentality.”

UCF Edge Rusher Nyjalik Kelly

Nyjalik Kelly on his overall thoughts on the game

“I thought we played great, but we still have space to improve. We had a good game, but this wasn’t our best, so we still have to get on the field Monday and improve upon what we did today.”

Nyjalik Kelly on early plays that sparked the defense

“All week we talked about getting turnovers and starting fast early, so it was a blessing and great that we were able to get interceptions early, and get a couple of sacks early.”





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Nyjalik Kelly on the team's biggest strength on defense

"Everybody showed strengths tonight. If we didn't get back there in time, they went out and got the interception for us. If they covered long enough, we were able to go back and get the sack. We got the fumble in the end zone and a bunch of three-and-outs as well. Collectively, the whole defense was the strength tonight."

Nyjalik Kelly on what the defense did better than in week one

"It shouldn't be a complete performance. We're only in week two, so if this was our best, we're in for a rude awakening for the rest of the season. Last week, we played well, but just not our best. Every week, we're looking to improve. We didn't have as many turnovers last week; this week we had more. We especially improved on the turnover side."

Nyjalik Kelly on the importance of the bye week

"This bye week is going to be really important, helping our guys to recover and give everyone a chance to mentally prepare for our opponent. This is a good bye week to have after two games, to see where everybody's at and what everyone's strengths are and areas to improve upon. These two weeks, everyone has to dial in and continue being together like we have been."

