

Miami Hurricanes Football: HC Manny Diaz
Virginia – Postgame Press Conference Transcripts

Thurs., Sept. 30, 2021
Hard Rock Stadium

Opening Statement...

"There is a lot of hurt in that locker room right now. It was a game of missed opportunities. Our guys believe though and that was on the verge of being something remarkable with what this team has gone through. Obviously, we started slowly and allowed them to take control of the game. I think, at one point, snaps were 35 to 11. We had a hard time getting a rhythm. We had a hard time running the football. We had a hard time protecting our quarterback. As time went on, we grew into the game and, like I said, I thought our fourth quarter effort was worthy of victory but, ultimately, we came up one play short."

On the strategy on the final drive...

"We were trying to score. Obviously, we had gashed them on the run from about the 50-yard line in. We thought they were pretty whipped up front, fatigue-wise. They had been subbing and losing guys. We simply didn't gain yards on first and second down and then it became third down and 10. They took a timeout late in the play clock and, at that point, we could control the clock and kick the walk-off field goal. We were trying to score a touchdown until it got to third down."

On the fight of the team...

"What I know is what I just saw in the fourth quarter when there was not a lot of evidence that we could do what we did right there and give us a chance to win the game. The guys believe in each other. There's not a person I'd rather line up to kick that field goal than Andy Borregales. I think everyone on that sideline thought we were going to win the football game and that we had done enough to win the football game."

On kicker Andy Borregales...

"He was very disappointed. The team rallied around him. What I told you, I told the team. Our guys love Andy. They have great confidence in him. I know the way that he is, he is built to bounce back from this. He is a mentally tough young man."

On discussion with Coach Mendenhall after the game...

"I think there was just a mutual respect for the way the teams fought. Obviously, what we had been through with the players who we found out were out this week and seeing a guy like [Tyler Van Dyke] grow up before our eyes on a big stage, on national TV. It was his second start, but really his first major test. Some of the plays he made down there, down the stretch, were pretty special."

On dedication of the team...

"It doesn't take away from the fact that we lost the game, there are no moral victories, but if you want to check the heartbeat of a team and the morale of a team and whether these guys truly believe in what is going on here, I think that fourth quarter was it. The way we started and the way we were having such a difficult

time moving the football, the guys didn't care about that; they stayed after it. Multiple guys made plays. We've got something. To your point on the ACC, yes, there have been all kinds of teams who have dropped a game in our league. We have a chance to rest up. Where we're at right now, physically wounded, mentally and emotionally wounded, we have a chance to get away and get ourselves back. We know we have a seven-game tough stretch coming, starting off in Chapel Hill, N.C."

On mentality heading into the bye week...

"I think we'll be able to get some guys back who have been out. We have a lot of guys out there who were carrying bumps and bruises and pushed through it. Then, we'll be able to refine what we are doing with the personnel that we have available. The five games have been disappointing. There is no other way to say it. There is no excuse that you can make. It's not what this team is. There is more in us and our players believe that. I think that is what was on display there late, but again, we have to find a way to make the plays at the end of the game. This team will battle. This team will fight. Despite all the adversity they have been through, we were on the verge of doing something really special tonight and just came up short. We have to take that part of it and build off of that."