

Georgia Postgame Quotes

Georgia vs. Ball State

Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023 | Dooley Field at Sanford Stadium

Head Coach Kirby Smart

On the beginning of the game and having an early kickoff time...

"More than the outcome of the game, which is what everyone will look at because everyone is outcome oriented, is we had a great week of practice. I'm so proud that we had a great day Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and a good Thursday. I saw improvement in the team. Those things that I saw in practice made me feel so much better about going into this game. It didn't start perfectly but I was proud of the week of practice we had, and I thought we created some energy through our special teams."

On Mekhi Mews' punt return for a touchdown setting up the energy...

"You're always looking for something. Defense turns to offense. It's like basketball, when you play good defense, you get transition offense. When you play good defense in special teams, you can transition that to offense. We started getting momentum there as the defense got stops and then eventually we got them into a long yardage situation and we were able to return the punt. That gave the crowd some juice and our players some juice."

On what impressed him about the Bulldog defense...

"I was impressed that we got the turnovers, that's the thing. We didn't get them the way we wanted to. We wanted to get some punch-outs, rip-outs. We got lucky. We got a great play by Malaki (Starks), we got a tipped ball, another tipped ball and we capitalized on those. You give kids credit for that but without those there are several drives where we didn't stop them, they stopped themselves. They had a good plan, I thought they did a good job executing that plan. They were outmatched in a lot of ways and they had a nice plan to help themselves."

#15 Carson Beck | Jr. | QB

On what gave him comfort in the offense...

"I mean, the big thing is our defense giving us good ball positioning on the field. Starting on the plus 40, inside the 50, the confidence just kind of exudes from that but also just feeling each other out, getting the chemistry and just keep working and getting better."

On the upcoming SEC matchup against South Carolina...

"I mean SEC games are different. There's a different level. They're going to give us their all. We're at home. It's going to be hot. It's going to be physical and that's what we pride ourselves on. So we're just going to try to be physical and go out there and do our best."

#32 Chaz Chambliss | Jr. | OLB

On the three turnovers...

"I think it's good. It was good eyes by the secondary knowing their coverages, where they need to be at that time. But we also said we need to get more punch-outs and breakouts and forced fumbles, which we didn't do."

#1 Marcus Rosemy-Jacksaint | WR | Sr.

On Mekhi Mews...

"I've seen it everyday since he came in here. Him being on scout teams, just going out there against the ones that just giving everybody the blues. Every day he makes plays - that's all he does. Those little runs, that's what he does on a daily basis. So, that's nothing that's not really special, that's really nothing new to us, at least, because we know what he could do. I'm just excited for him at this point. I know how hard he worked to get to this point, and now he got his opportunity and I hope he runs with it."

Ball State Postgame Quotes

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Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023 | Dooley Field at Sanford Stadium

Head Coach Mike Neu

Opening Statement...

"We lost a game to a good football team. They are number one in the country. I am proud of the way our football team started that game, fighting our tail off. Second quarter, we had a couple opportunities there where we had some one-on-ones. We talked all week long about being able to come down with a couple of those plays. Having those turnovers there, the three interceptions in that first half. You can't do that any week, especially when you are talking about playing the number one team in the country. At halftime, I addressed our guys. I just wanted to see them come out and fight, give it everything they had, stick by each other's sides through thick and thin. That is what we are all about here. I appreciate the effort by every single guy on that team. The way they finished the football game. We are ready to go. We are ready to get back to Muncie, get on with our weekly process this next week, first game back at home. That is our primary concern."

On the first quarter effort...

"It is the same message no matter what meeting we have had this week. It has been the same message of just taking it one play at a time, giving it the Ball State effort, having a great attitude no matter what through thick and thin. We know there is going to be adversity. In a football game like this, there is always going to be adversity, in life for that matter. I really just wanted to see us attack it with a positive can-do attitude. If we believe, we will have a chance to go out on the field and have success. I thought our guys took the field with that attitude."

On the defensive performance...

"We competed. We are talking about the best athletes in the country that we just lined up on that football field with. I stress, we competed. Our guys gave it everything they had. You have to give them credit. They have done an unbelievable job here. Back-to-back national championships, I know they [Georgia] are going to have a great football team this year. I have a lot of respect for Coach Smart. I had a chance to interact with him before the game and postgame there. Our guys competed."

#9 Kadin Semonza | Fr. | QB

On playing in an SEC environment as a true freshman...

"It was a dream come true. That's what you think of when you think college football: thousands of screaming fans, big stadiums, and the best team in the country. It was cool to be out there for sure."

On improvements to make heading back to Muncie...

"Just a couple miscommunications. We've got to clean it up, make sure we're all on the same page, and be ready to roll."

#9 Keionté Newson | Jr. | OLB

On what clicked for the defense in the first quarter...

"Everybody did their 1/11. You just do your job and don't worry about what's going on with all the shifts and the motions that they did. Just do your job. Communication was a big part of it as well and running to the ball. I think that helped us out a lot in the first quarter."

On how playing Georgia will help Ball State for the rest of the season...

"Nobody is going to match Georgia physically, but football is football no matter who you play. Yeah, we played the number one team in the country but at the end of the day, MAC schools have beat SEC schools in bowl games in the past and football is football."