

Georgia Postgame Quotes

Georgia vs. Tennessee

Saturday, Nov. 16, 2024 | Dooley Field at Sanford Stadium

Head Coach Kirby Smart

On the atmosphere of the game...

"Unbelievable. It was probably the best atmosphere that I've ever been a part of for a game like this. It was better than Notre Dame to me. It was a more meaningful game, a conference game at the end of the year. The crowd was electric. The only thing that would have made it better is if we had black jerseys on."

On the offense and Carson Beck's performance...

"He's 25 of 40, he throws two balls that should probably be caught. He throws one over the middle to (Oscar) Delp that should be caught and he had a couple of intentional throw aways. I'm saying he should really be 31 or 32 of 40. The guy was accurate tonight, played well, had a couple of drops but it never flustered him. He played with three true freshman backs beside him. Those backs, outside of Nate (Frazier), really hadn't played. We had a freshman receiver step up. He lost one of his receivers in the middle of game. And he never flinched. I'm so proud of him."

On the defensive performance and slowing down the Tennessee offense...

"Well first off, give them kudos. They ran the ball well and were really stubborn with the run. Great back. I don't know that we've given up 152 yards to a back in a while but he's good and they were stubborn with it. But what we didn't do was give up many explosives. I don't think they had many passes over 20 yards, which that's what they do well. I thought we played well out on the perimeter. When you do that well against these guys it's hard for them to score."

#15 Carson Beck | R Sr. | QB

On the impact of dropped passes...

"Yeah, I mean, it is what it is. It's part of the game. What can I do about that? They're going to continue to practice. I'm going to continue to have faith and confidence in them. I'm going to continue to throw the ball to them. I have to. And they have so much talent. I think as time goes and we start really rolling this thing, they're going to make plays. They made plays tonight. It's not always going to look perfect. They're not going to make it in a single play. Some of it is my fault on ball placement and stuff like that. I have so much belief in them, and I really think that it's really about to start exploding."

On his conversations with Offensive Coordinator Mike Bobo this week...

"Yeah, obviously, going into the week, just discussing the type of plays that he wanted to run and how we were going to attack them. Throughout the meetings on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday we're changing stuff. We're dicing stuff up all the way up until, shoot, this morning. There's stuff we're still going over, especially with the night game, we have a little bit more time. Those types of conversations are really good, and I think our relationship has really grown over the past two years. I'm happy that he has faith in me and confidence in me to lead this offense."

#11 Jalon Walkee | Jr. | ILB

On the impact of the defense's five sacks...

"Big, us executing the rush plan. Chaz [Chambliss] with two, I had one, Smael [Mondon Jr.] had one, and I'm missing somebody else, but we executed the rush plan tonight. And, that's what we worked on all year long. Nico [Iamaleava] is a great quarterback and able to use his legs as well. Limiting his legs and making him play quarterback in the pocket, and when he escapes we know when to counter back and where he wants to escape."

On coming back from down 10-0...

"We are a resilient team. We didn't flinch. We know how to take punches. We take punches and we also give punches as well. So, us going out there and having a defensive stop, having to shutout the whole second half, that's big for us. That's a big reason why we won that football game."

Tennessee Postgame Quotes

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Head Coach Josh Heupel

Opening Statement...

"I want to give credit to Georgia. They did what had to be done in the second half to get a win. I love the effort that we played with. We played physical. We just didn't do enough as coaches and players together to get on the right side of the scoreboard in the second half. There are things in the first half too about being better at some of the things that you need to against a good team to win the football game, to many big plays given up defensively, offensively some assignment stuff in critical situations that change the way the game is played. I do love the effort and competitiveness that our guys played with. We just have to be better."

On what he saw from Georgia's passing ability...

"They had a big night creating explosive plays down the football field. Some of them were contested plays. Guys are open down the middle. We were playing really well early then gave up a hard count where they have a free shot down the middle of the football field to make it explosive. They robbed us a couple times and got guys free too. All in all, we weren't playing well enough."

On the message to the team after the game...

"Practice well. Practice hard. Prepare hard. They did a lot of the right things in the leadup to the game. Tonight, what happened down on that field defines tonight. That is the reality of it. It is the nature of being a competitor. Where do we go from here? Man, let it soak in. Let it hurt. Watch it. Grow from there. Get the next opportunity. We've got more guaranteed. The only one that matters in next week. This group will continue to grow. We don't control what we don't control. We control our preparation. We control how we get ourselves ready to go play next Saturday. We've got a good football team in that locker room. It is a good football team. We've got to coach a little better. We've got to play a little better."

#8 Nico Iamaleava | RFr. | QB

On how the team feels after the loss...

"A lot of frustration. A lot of anger. We put a lot of work in to come out with a win in this game and came up short, didn't play smart in the second half. It's going to sting. We have to let it sting and just learn from this."

On how he felt during the game after his uncertain status this week...

"I felt great. I felt great out there. I was happy I could go out there and battle with my brothers. I wouldn't go to battle with anybody else besides these guys."

On whether Georgia's second half adjustments made the second half more difficult...

"No, man. Obviously, they adjusted well in the second half but everything we were running I thought was still there. We have to do a better job at executing."

#35 Will Brooks | Sr. | DB

On Oscar Delp's performance...

"Yeah, I mean, obviously they had some plays for him. We just didn't play smart enough, didn't execute the right way with our eyes and that kind of led to him getting open a couple times."

On having to play their best game defensively...

"I mean, I think we could have played a lot better just playing smarter, you know, executing better. Obviously going on the road, it's a tough environment to play in. So, you always got to play your best defensively to win these games."